

Lewis, Clark and the Corp of Discovery



Name: _____ Section: _____

Vocabulary

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1. Expedition
2. Louisiana Territory
3. Corp of Discovery
4. Keelboat
5. Lemhi Pass
6. Continental Divide
7. Northwest Passage
8. Oregon Country

1. _____ : _____

2. _____ : _____

3. _____ : _____

4. _____ : _____

5. _____ : _____

6. _____ : _____

7. _____ : _____

8. _____ : _____

Notes

Lewis & Clark

- I. In 1803, after purchasing Louisiana, Congress gave Jefferson money to send explorers on an expedition to study the Louisiana territory.
 - a. Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis to lead the expedition.
 - b. Lewis chose his friend William Clark to be co-captain.
 - c. Together, Lewis and Clark lead a group of roughly 30 men called the Corp of Discovery.
 - i. They were challenged with doing the following:
 1. Map a route to the Pacific
 2. Find an all water route if possible
 3. Study and record the weather, geography, plant and animal life of the west.
 4. Learn about Native Americans living west of Mississippi.

II. Makeup of the Corp of Discovery

- a. Consisted of:
 - i. Lewis & Clark
 - ii. 33 enlisted men
 - iii. 1 slave
 - iv. Several Native American guides
 - v. 1 Dog

III. The Journey was divided into two parts: the journey west and the return trip home.

- a. The Journey West
 - i. May 1804, after a year of preparation, the Corp of Discovery left from St. Louis, Missouri.
 - ii. During the summer of 1804 the expedition crossed the Great Plains.
 1. The expedition crossed the Great Plains by traveling up the Missouri River

- a. The group used a large boat called a Keelboat to transport most of their supplies.
2. While on the Great Plains, the expedition experienced its only fatality.
 - a. Sgt. Charles Floyd died of appendicitis.
 - b. Floyd died in what is now Sioux City, Iowa.
- iii. The expedition spent the winter of 1804-1805 in North Dakota at Fort Mandan.
 1. Located in the center of what is now North Dakota
 2. Named after local Mandan Indians
 3. Picked up a French guide named Toussaint Charbonneau
 - a. Charbonneau brought one of his two Shoshone wives to act as an interpreter.
 - i. Her name was Sacagawea.
 - ii. Sacagawea brought along her infant son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.
 4. Before leaving Ft. Mandan the following spring, the keelboat was loaded with maps and specimens and sent back to Jefferson.
- iv. In the spring of 1805, the expedition set out to cross the Rocky Mountains.
 1. Most of this portion of the journey was spent in dugout canoes and on horseback.

2. During this part of the journey the expedition passed through land that Sacagawea recognized from the childhood.
 - a. Sacagawea proved to be extremely valuable.
 - i. Acted as a guide
 - ii. Served as a translator
 - iii. Helped the expedition find food
3. In the Rockies Lewis & Clark crossed the Continental Divide.
 - a. Crossed near Lemhi Pass on what is now the Montana/Idaho border.
4. The Continental Divide proved that there was no all water route to the Pacific.
- v. November 7th, 1805, the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean.
- vi. The expedition spent the winter of 1805-1806 at Fort Clatsop in Oregon.
- b. The Return Trip Home
 - i. The return trip to St. Louis took another year
 1. The trip was much faster because the expedition was traveling downstream.
 - ii. The expedition returned home in September of 1806

IV. Effects of Lewis & Clark's Journey

- a. Mapped much of the Northwest
- b. Led to the discovery of over 300 new animal and plant species
- c. Inspired many Americans and lead to western settlement and trade
 - i. Examples:
 - 1. Inspired Zebulon Pike to explore and map much of the South West
- d. Led to tragedy for Native Americans